

his *Lycopodium Selago lucidulum*, a name which will scarcely be maintained by any careful observer or trained systematist and which even the author himself discards before he reaches his checklist of species at the end of the volume. The littering of botanical synonymy with such useless names seems to us more reprehensible than any bone fide attempt no matter how radical to reform nomenclature. It may be properly urged furthermore that the launching of new names or combinations should not be attempted unless their exact relation to earlier names is made clear by adequate and orderly bibliographical references to previous literature. If it should be held that such definite and scholarly citation is out of place in a manual primarily intended for beginners, it is no less clear that such popular works are not the medium for the publication of new scientific names. In the checklist the name *Robbinsii* is spelled *Robinsii*, and *porophilum* is spelled *porophylum*. A brief glossary is appended in which some of the definitions such as "Tomentose. — Covered with matted wool," "Panicle. — A cluster of fruit in which the stems branch more or less," and "Spatulate. — Spoon-shaped," might have been considerably improved.

The pen illustrations which are numerous and sufficiently characteristic will doubtless be useful to the beginner. Some colored process plates are less successful, exhibiting in distorted perspective certain species, which stand out in front of their scenic background in a way strongly suggestive of their majestic allies of the carboniferous period.

Notwithstanding some defects the book is a worthy addition to popular botanical literature and will doubtless aid many in the study of an interesting group of plants. — B. L. R.

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THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB.—On December 1st, the New England Botanical Club held its annual meeting at Hotel Brunswick, in Boston. At the business session the customary reports of the treasurer and curators were presented, several new members were voted into the Club, and the following officers were elected for the coming year: *President*, B. L. Robinson, *Vice-President*, Walter Deane, *Recording Secretary and Treasurer*, E. F. Williams, *Corresponding Secretary*, E. L. Rand, *Phanerogamic Curator*, M. L. Fernald, *Cryptogamic Curator*, Hollis Webster, *Councillors*, Messrs. G. G. Kennedy, F. S. Collins, and F. D. Lambert.

The business session was followed by a dinner in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Club. The retiring president, Mr. F. S. Collins, presided and acted as toast master. Mr. Williams, who for the whole ten years has served as the recording secretary and treasurer of the Club, gave an admirable sketch of its history, specially emphasizing the value of such an organization in stimulating and co-ordinating the activities of the amateur botanists of the region. On motion of Mr. Rand, it was unanimously voted that this historical sketch should be printed for distribution to all members of the Club. The other speakers were Messrs. Farlow, the first president of the Club, Robinson, Fernald, Webster, Deane, and Brainerd, whose addresses felicitously recalled many of the more humorous as well as the serious aspects of the work in which the Club has been engaged during the past decade. The dinner was attended by nearly fifty resident and non-resident members, who had gathered from New York, New Brunswick, and every state of New England except New Hampshire. The evening will long be remembered as one of the pleasantest in history of the Club.

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THE DEATH OF FRANCIS HOWARD PEABODY. — It is with deep regret that we record the death on September 22nd, 1905, of Francis Howard Peabody. As senior member of one of the most prominent and successful banking firms in New England, Mr. Peabody was subject to the constant and pressing demands of his influential position. It is, therefore, one of the best evidences of his breadth of interests and largeness of character that he found time and attention for literary and scientific pursuits. As a pupil and for many years thereafter a warm personal friend of Dr. Asa Gray, Mr. Peabody had a very cordial interest in botanical investigation, and for several years served as chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Gray Herbarium. He became a member of the New England Botanical Club June 4th, 1897, and gave much cordial encouragement as well as financial aid to its various undertakings. Although he would have been the last to claim much technical knowledge of botany, his well trained judgment and keen discrimination gave him a surprising insight into the ideals and problems of modern botanical research. Mr. Peabody died suddenly of heart-disease at his summer home in Beverley, Massachusetts. He was in his seventy-fourth year.